

Advisory Council on Aging and Disability Services

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Creating choices for elders and adults with disabilities in Seattle-King County

MONTHLY MEETING

JULY 15, 2005

MEMBERS PRESENT

CITY OF SEATTLE	KING COUNTY	UNITED WAY
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Thelma Coney	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gabriel Cohen, Vice Chair	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Martha Becker
<input type="checkbox"/> Joanne Brekke	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Helen Spencer	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Lorna Stone
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adam John	<input type="checkbox"/> John Holecek	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Thelma Pegues
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Alexandra Tu	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> John Barnett	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Timmie Faghin, Chair
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Tom Rasmussen	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Larry Verhei	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Don Moreland
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Larry Low, Secretary	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Lisa Yeager, Member At Large	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Midge Levy
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Houston Brown	<input type="checkbox"/> Vacant	<input type="checkbox"/> Vacant
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dr. Robert Gross	<input type="checkbox"/> Vacant	<input type="checkbox"/> Vacant
<input type="checkbox"/> Vacant	<input type="checkbox"/> Vacant	<input type="checkbox"/> Vacant

Excused Absence Joanne Brekke, John Holecek

Guests Ninfa Quiroz, Amber Quintal

ADS Staff Pamela Piering, Selina Chow, Rosemary Cunningham, Karen Winston, Andrea Yip, Marcy Kubbs

United Way Staff

**King County
Staff**

MINUTES

Timmie Faghin, Chair convened the Advisory Council meeting at 12:00 p.m. and invited everyone attending to introduce themselves.

PROGRAM TOPIC: **UNIVERSAL DESIGN**

Today's program featured two speakers who addressed the topic of Universal Design: 1) Susan Duncan who is an Adjunct Professor at Seattle Pacific University's Interior Design program and President of ADaptations, a firm consulting on issues of accessibility; and, 2) Dr. Sandra Hartje, Professor of Seattle Pacific University's Department of Family and Consumer Sciences, whose responsibilities include overseeing the Interior Design Program.

In association with the Area Agency on Aging for Seattle-King County and sponsored by:



City of Seattle



King County

Believing that usability and aesthetics are mutually compatible, Susan Duncan defines Universal Design (UD) as simply “good design”. Sometimes described as Trans-generational Design, UD means designing for the course of a lifespan, from infancy to old age, without needing to remodel one’s home to accommodate different ability levels as one grows older. Designs that work well for people with disabilities work better for everyone. The typical home today is not designed to be flexible or adaptable when life circumstances occur that changes one’s ability.

Universal design incorporates features, products and materials into housing during the design and construction phase. Many elements such as providing wider door widths and placing electrical outlets 18”-24” off the floor can be incorporated into a home at no additional costs. While some products such as dishwashers with drawers can be more expensive, it is estimated that on average incorporating Universal Design elements adds only 1%-3% to the cost of a home.

The Seven Principles of Universal Design are:

- 1) Equitable Use
- 2) Flexibility in Use
- 3) Simple and Intuitive Use
- 4) Perceptible Information
- 5) Tolerance for Error
- 6) Low Physical Effort
- 7) Size and Space for Approach and Use
- 8) Affordability (Proposed)
- 9) Sustainability (Proposed)

The principles of Universal Design in brief are best described as:

Inclusiveness
Choice
Clarity
Safety
Comfort

Key Universal Design elements for various rooms of the home are described below.

Entrance

Stepless entrance
36 inch doorway with side window
2 levels of wide angle peep holes – high and low
5’ x 5’ space on both sides of door to provide turning radius for wheel chair
Lever door hardware

Interior Circulation

Door openings minimum of 36" with flush thresholds

Circulation routes 36" wide (preferably 42")

Vertical Circulation

One bedroom and accessible bathroom located on the same level as kitchen, living room, etc.

Stair handrails on both sides of stairs that contrast with wall color

Stacked closets for future elevator

Bathroom

Shower with adjustable height hand-held shower head and glide bar

Curbless entry with floor tiles no larger than 3"x3" to allow for necessary grading

Lever controls off center for easy access

Sinks with rear-mounted drain and color contrasting with counter

Counters with 27"-29" knee clearance and pipe protection

Commode with clear floor space in front and to one side

Kitchen

Refrigerators with counter space on either side

Drawer style dishwasher

Microwave below counter

Full extension pull-out drawers in base cabinets

Counters with multiple height work surfaces and pull-out cutting boards

Dr. Sandra Hartje indicated there is a lack of awareness and understanding of Universal Design. Comprehensive and concise guidelines are currently not available. As a first step, Dr. Hartje developed a web-based survey including more than 230 design features considered by some to be elements of Universal Design. The goal of the survey was to determine what elements professionals working in the field consider "Essential" to Universal Design, and what elements they consider "Enhanced". A year ago she distributed the survey to several e-mail forums frequented by Universal Design professionals. She received 102 responses to her survey and has analyzed a portion of the data. She will use survey results to develop Universal Design guidelines. These guidelines are necessary for the eventual development of a "LEED-like" incentive program to encourage the inclusion of Universal Design elements in building projects.

The next meeting of the Universal Design Coalition will be on September 15, 2005 from 9:30-11:30 a.m. at the Hearing Speech and Deafness Center, 1625 19th Avenue, Seattle.

BUSINESS MEETING

Action Taken: It was moved/seconded and passed that the June 10, 2005 minutes be approved after correcting the spelling of Helen Spencer's last name. [Note: No misspelling was found in the Advisory Council minutes.]

COMMITTEE AND TASK FORCE REPORTS

Planning and Allocation Committee

Thelma Coney reported that the Planning and Allocations Committee has developed funding recommendations for 2006. They are:

- 1) If revenues remain the same, maintain the status quo with 2005 Allocations.
- 2) If revenue exceeds projections, then consider allocating excess revenue to:
 - a) Inflationary Adjustment, b) Nutrition Transportation, c) Special Information and Assistance, and d) Volunteer Transportation.
- 3) If revenues decline, use criteria previously adopted by the ADS Sponsors to guide allocation reductions.

Action Taken: It was moved/seconded and passed that the Advisory Council accept the Recommended Funding Strategies for 2006. Two Council members abstained.

ADS staff, Karen Winston, then reviewed the 2004 Area Plan Report Card which lists the 2004 Area Plan Objectives, indicating which of the objectives have been met. Of the ten objectives scheduled to be met by the end of 2004, five have been met. In addition, seven of 18 goals scheduled to be met by the end of 2005 have already been met.

The State Unit on Aging requires ADS to update its Area Plan objectives every two years. ADS staff, Rosemary Cunningham, reviewed the draft Area Plan Objectives Update for 2006-2007 with the Advisory Council. Once the ADS Sponsors review the draft it will be made available for public comment. Public hearings will be held on August 1st and August 3rd. Once public review has been completed, the Sponsors will adopt a final version of the objectives and submit it to the State by October 1, 2005.

Outreach and Advocacy Committee

Gabe Cohen reported there was a joint meeting today of the Outreach and Advocacy Committee and Health Care Task Force. They heard a presentation by Tony Perez and Jill Novik, City Office of Cable Communications, about the Comcast renegotiations and developed a recommendation for the Advisory Council on this topic.

Action Taken: It was moved / seconded and passed that the Advisory Council write a letter to the City Council to request individuals with low incomes receive a 50% reduction in the analog and digital portions of the monthly bill when they renegotiate the City's contract with Comcast.

The Outreach and Advocacy Committee also discussed loss of funding for Section 8 housing vouchers.

Action Taken: It was moved/seconded and passed that the Advisory Council write a letter to Patty Murray to recommend restoration of funding for Section 8 housing vouchers.

Gabe reported the Outreach and Advocacy Committee would like the Advisory Council to consider joining the Washington Responsible Lending Coalition. It was suggested that a representative of the Coalition appear before the Advisory Council so members can learn more about the coalition before joining.

State Council on Aging

[Note: **Joanne Brekke** who was unable to attend the meeting submitted a written report.] On June 24th the State Council on Aging hosted an Eastern Washington forum at Cheney Campus for the White House Conference on Aging. Dennis Mahar of the Lewis/Mason County AAA provided an outstanding presentation on changes that have taken place in our society that have led to the strong emphasis on individualism we see today. The rest of the program consisted of small group discussions on topics including Healthy Aging, Elder Friendly Communities, Economic Security, and the National Council on Aging resolutions. The State Council will meet again in September.

The Cash and Counseling “Think Tank” will be meeting on August 10, 2005.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:45 p.m. to allow time for Advisory Council members, scheduled for re-appointment, to appear at the 2:00 p.m. meeting of the City Council’s Housing, Human Services and Health Committee.

NEXT MEETING

**Friday, August 12, 2005
12:00 – 2:00 p.m.
13th Floor Conference Room
Alaska Building
618 Second Ave, Seattle, WA 98104
www.adsadvisorycouncil.org**

Larry Low, Secretary _____